

### **REMARKS**

Applicant notes with appreciation the continued allowance of claims 45 and 46 as written.

Applicant also thanks the Examiner for his time in conducting a brief telephone Interview on November 1, 2007 to discuss rejected claims 39-41, 43, 50 and 53. During the Interview, Applicant took some time to explain the history of the case, including Applicant's communication difficulties with the previous Examiner. In particular, in response to a number of amendments made by Applicant, each of which were written to accept allowable claims and place the application in condition for allowance (while leaving other claims to be prosecuted in a continuation case), the former Examiner repeatedly withdrew previously allowable subject matter and failed to return calls by Applicant to schedule an Interview. Thus, Applicant is thankful that Examiner Nguyen has made himself available to discuss this case in detail.

Based on the Interview with the Examiner, Applicant has amended the pending rejected claims, primarily to distinguish the claims over U.S. Patent No. 5,768,722 ("Olson"). Each of the rejected claims is discussed below.

#### **Claim 39**

As proposed during the Interview, claim 39 has been amended to require that the tightening member be rotatable. Some examples of Applicant's fastening members having a rotatable tightening member are provided in Figs. 5, 7 and 16.

In addition, claim 39 now requires that the handle portion comprise a projection extending away from the fastening member. Examples of this feature are also provided in Figs. 5, 7 and 16.

In addition to the foregoing amendments, Applicant has also amended claim 39 to require that the fastening member be constructed so as to permit fastening and unfastening from the interior area (that is being protected).

**Claim 40**

Applicant has canceled claim 40.

**Claim 41**

As proposed during the Interview, claim 40 has been amended to require that the tightening member be rotatable. The other amendments proposed in connection with claim 39 have not been incorporated.

**Claim 43**

During the Interview, the Examiner shed some light on the rejection of this claim, which is found on page 4 of the Office Action as it pertains to Olson's hanging members.

In order to distinguish this claim over the prior art, Applicant has amended the claim to require (a) that at least one of said fastening members have a hooked portion and a rotatable tightening member that together engage the support structure, and (b) a handle portion attached to at least one fastening member, the handle portion comprising a projection extending away from the fastening member.

**Claim 50**

Applicant has made some cosmetic changes to this claim for purposes of clarity.

Substantively however, and as explained during the Interview, Olson does not include pairing members that comprise a rivet, as required by claim 50. An illustrative rivet of Applicant's invention is shown in Figs. 19-22, the purpose of which is to keep the fastener securely attached to the section of material at all times. The advantage of having a riveted fastener (versus a fastener that is attached to the material via a grommet) is that the riveted fastener cannot be misplaced by the user when the device is disengaged. Based on the foregoing, it is clear that claim 50 distinguishes over the cited art.

**Claim 53**

Amended claim 53 now requires fastening members to include a screwed tightening member and a curved handle extending from the fastening members for holding the fastening member.

**New Claims**

Applicant has also submitted new claims 55-59 for examination. Applicant contends that these claims are readily distinguishable over Olson and other art previously cited in connection with this application.

Applicant submits that all of the pending claims are distinguishable over the cited prior art made of record in this case. Accordingly, early and favorable action is requested. To the extent that the Examiner believes that minor additional amendments are required, Applicant invites the Examiner to call Applicant and discuss such changes.


Applicant understands that no fee is due in connection with this response. If one is necessary, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 07-1730.

Respectfully submitted,

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